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SUBJECT: CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER PRAISES AFGHAN ELECTIONS

¶1. (U) In remarks to reporters in Pangnirtun, Nunavut on August 20, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said that "what is taking place in Afghanistan is remarkable" and praised the 2009 Afghan elections -- "warts and all," noting the inherent difficulties involved in elections in a country that had gone through "thirty years of civil war" and "without any real history of democratic governance." He especially lauded the contributions of Canadians -- military, diplomats, and development workers -- to the electoral process, along with other allies.

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